

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 175092

44

ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/WE:JVSMITH

APPROVED BY EUR - MR. LAINGEN

EUR/WE:REBARBOUR

S/S:MR. BRIDGES

R. BRIDGES

----- 021737

O 151308Z JUL 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY VALLETTA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 175092

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MT

REF:VALLETTA 0817

FOLLOWING FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND ANY COMMENTS YOU CARE
TO OFFER IS TEXT OF LETTER OF JULY 5 FROM MINTOFF TO THE
SECRETARY.

1. AS YOU ALREADY KNOW GENERAL ELECTIONS IN MALTA MUST BE
HELD, ACCORDING TO THE PROVISIONS OF OUR DEMOCRATIC CONSTI-
TUTION, BEFORE THE END OF NOVEMBER THIS YEAR.

2. THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE THE
STATUS OF MALTA -- FROM TIME IMMEMORIAL A FORTRESS IN THE
HANDS OF THE MOST POWERFUL NATION -- AFTER APRIL 1976 WHEN
THE AGREEMENT WITH BRITAIN ABOUT HER BASE COMES TO AN END.

3. IF YOUR OTHER MORE PRESSING ENGAGEMENTS HAD NOT DEPRIVED
ME OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET YOU IN PERSON, I WOULD HAVE
TOLD YOU HOW, DURING THE PAST FOUR YEARS, MALTA HAS BEEN
SUCCESSFULLY STRIVING TO CHANGE HER FORTRESS ECONOMY INTO
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 175092

ONE BASED ON TOURISM, INDUSTRY, FISHING, AND AGRICULTURE.

4. PARALLEL WITH THIS EFFORT IN THE ECONOMIC SECTOR THERE HAS BEEN A DRIVE IN OUR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS TO TURN MALTA INTO A CENTRE FOR PEACE AND UNITY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN. IN PARTICULAR MALTA HAS EXPLICITLY ACCEPTED THE ONUS OF BRIDGING THE POLITICAL GAP BETWEEN WESTERN EUROPE AND THE ARAB STATES.

5. SOME SLIGHT VIBRATIONS OF OUR ACTIVE CONCERN FOR MEDITERRANEAN PEACE REACHED YOU AND GROMYKO AT THE CONFERENCE OF HELSINKI. IF THEREFORE THERE HAVE BEEN ANY DOUBTS ABOUT OUR PAST INTENTIONS, THE FACT THAT COMRADE GROMYKO SHOWED THE UTMOST DISPLEASURE AND ANNOYANCE DURING THE HELSINKI DELIBERATIONS GIVES US A WELL-EARNED TESTIMONIAL FOR CREDIBILITY IN WHAT WE PROPOSE TO DO.

6. FIRST LET ME REVEAL TO YOU THE ONLY DEFINITIVE PROPOSAL MADE TO US. THIS COMES FROM THE ONLY COUNTRY WHICH HAS SO FAR SHOWED SUFFICIENT INTEREST IN THE FUTURE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN TO PROMPT HER TAKE AN INITIATIVE. THE LIBYAN ARAB REPUBLIC HAVE PROPOSED THE MAXIMUM THEY COULD OFFER US SINGLE-HANDED: A MUTUAL DEFENCE PACT COUPLED WITH CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION.

7. ON OUR PART WE TOOK THE INITIATIVE WITH THE GOVERNMENTS OF WESTERN GERMANY, FRANCE, AND ITALY, AT THE VERY HIGHEST LEVEL, TO PROBE FOR A SOLUTION WHICH WOULD NOT ONLY INSTITUTIONALIZE THE FRIENDLY RELATIONS WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ESTABLISH WITH WEST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AND WITH THE ARAB STATES FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL CONCERNED, BUT WHICH WOULD ALSO EXCLUDE FOR MANY YEARS TO COME THE POSSIBILITY OF MALTA FALLING INTO THE ORBIT OF ANY ONE CONTENDER FOR SUPREMACY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN.

8. THESE TALKS WERE PARTICULARLY LENGTHY AND DEEP WITH OUR CLOSEST EUROPEAN NEIGHBOUR. BUT IN THE SPRING OF THIS YEAR THE INCREASING UNCERTAINTIES IN THE INTERNAL POLITICAL CLIMATE IN ITALY AND THE PREOCCUPATIONS OF THE ITALIANS' OWN STANDING WITHIN THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE, PUSHED OUR INITIATIVE SOMEWHAT INTO THE BACKGROUND.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 175092

9. THUS THERE HAS BEEN NO COMMITMENT ON THE PART OF THE WEST. MUCH TO OUR SURPRISE OUR PROPOSAL, WHICH OPTS FOR THE NEUTRALITY OF OUR ISLAND TO BE GUARANTEED BY ARAB AND WEST EUROPEAN STATES AND OUR ECONOMY TO BE HELPED TOWARD VIABILITY BY THESE GUARANTORS, HAS NOT YET RECEIVED THE FORM SUPPORT WE WERE LED TO EXPECT.

10. I ENCLOSE A DRAFT AGREEMENT WHICH INCORPORATES THIS PROPOSAL AND WHICH THE PRESIDENT OF THE LIBYAN ARAB

REPUBLIC WOULD FIND ACCEPTABLE IF THE WEST SUPPORTS IT ENTHUSIASTICALLY.

11. SO A FEW WEEKS AWAY FROM THE GENERAL ELECTIONS, THE PEOPLE OF MALTA, WHO TREASURE THEIR DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS, HAVE ONLY ONE PROPOSAL WHICH THEY CAN OPENLY DISCUSS AND DECIDE UPON. THIS IS THE PROPOSAL INITIALLY MADE BY LIBYA FOR MUTUAL DEFENCE. THE WEST STILL OFFICIALLY TAKES A DUMB STANCE.

12. I HAVE PUT THE SITUATION BRUTALLY AND FRANKLY BEFORE YOU BECAUSE I AM SURE IT IS NOT IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES OR OF WESTERN EUROPE TO HAVE THEIR VIEWS ON MALTA'S STATUS DEFINED MERELY BY DEFAULT.

13. KNOWING HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO YOU THAT YOUR COUNTRY, AS THE UNDISPUTED LEADER OF THE WESTERN WAY OF LIFE, SHOULD PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THE MAKING OF HISTORY IN THIS VITAL PART OF OUR GLOBE, I AM APPEALING TO YOU PERSONALLY TO FIND TIME FOR A CONSIDERATION OF THIS PROBLEM AND TO BE AS FRANK WITH US IN YOUR REPLY AS WE HAVE BEEN WITH YOU.

14. I STILL HOPE YOU WILL FIND TIME TO VISIT US BEFORE YOUR ELECTIONS AND OURS.

15. IN THE MEANTIME PLEASE ACCEPT MY SINCEREST GOOD WISHES FOR ANOTHER TWO HUNDRED YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE AND PROSPERITY FOR YOUR COUNTRY.

YOURS VERY SINCERELY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 175092

DOM MINTOFF
PRIME MINISTER

KISSINGER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE175092
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JVSMITH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760273-0092
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760754/aaaabvpx.tel
Line Count: 158
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 VALLETTA 817
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 APR 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <19 APR 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ELECTIONS IN MALTA
TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, MT, US, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (MINTOFF, DOMINIC)
To: VALLETTA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006